



STUDENT AND STAFF MOBILITY



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Introduction

Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus+ is the European program for education, training, youth, and sport for the period between 2021 and 2027 and aims to enhance the personal and professional development of all citizens, reinforcing European identity, sustainable growth, social cohesion, and employability. It promotes the work of organizations within the scope of European or international partnerships with a wide range of public and private stakeholders, fostering the exchange of knowledge and innovation in the fields of education, training, youth, and sport.

KA171 - International Credit Mobility (ICM)

Key Action 171 - International Credit Mobility (ICM) promotes and supports the mobility of people who are enrolled or working in a higher education institution (HEI), from a Programme Country to a Partner Country or vice versa, namely:

Student mobility:

- Can be carried out in any field and cycle of study (short cycle / bachelor's / master's / doctorate) and is open to recent graduates.
- Physical mobility can last from 2 to 12 months.
- It can consist of a period of study in an HEI or a period of internship in a company, research institute, laboratory, organisation or any other relevant workplace.

Staff mobility:

- Can be carried out by teaching and non-teaching staff from higher education and also provides for invitations to specialists from companies (outside HEIs).
- Mobility duration: 5 days to 2 months.
- It can consist of a teaching mission to teach at a partner HEI or a training mission in the form of a training event abroad (e.g. job shadowing, observation periods, structured training, etc.).

IWONDER - Inclusive Wide Overseas Network for Development within ERasmus+

Coordinated by the Polytechnic University of Cávado and Ave (IPCA), Portugal, the IWONDER project was approved in 2023. It aims to promote knowledge sharing, mutual development, and enhanced understanding between IPCA and the project partners by encouraging student and staff mobility, as well as the exchange of best practices. Over its 36 months of implementation, the project will provide 54 scholarships to students, teaching staff, and non-teaching staff from participating institutions following the signing of an inter-institutional agreement between IPCA and each of the 24 partner institutions across 10 countries.

General Project Information

1. Partnership

Coordinating Institution

Country	University	Contact
Portugal	Polytechnic University of Cávado and Ave	gri@ipca.pt

Partner Institutions

Country	University	Contact
Egypt	Cairo University	info@iro.cu.edu.eg; heidi.bayoumy@cu.edu.eg
	Mansoura University	erasmus.mu@mans.edu.eg
Jordan	Al-Hussein Bin Talal University	international@ahu.edu.jo
	Amman Arab University	lber_administrative@aa.u.edu.jo
	German Jordanian University	jens.hegemann@gju.edu.jo
	Jordan University of Science and Technology	iro@just.edu.jo
	Princess Sumaya University for Technology	erasmus@psut.edu.jo
	University of Petra	amaqousi@uop.edu.jo
	Yarmouk University	mof.otoom@yu.edu.jo
Morocco	Université Cadi Ayyad	b.elafqih@uca.ma
	Université Hassan II de Casablanca	omar.elghazi@univh2c.ma meryem.magharbi@univh2c.ma
	Université Moulay Ismail	n.bouzoubaa@umi.ac.ma
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	Sfax University	fatma.ghorbel@usf.tn
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	Institute of Technology of Cambodia	chantha@itc.edu.kh
Nepal	Kathmandu University	uddhab.pyakurel@ku.edu.np
Cape Verde	Universidade de Cabo Verde	mobilidade@adm.unicv.edu.cv; bruniguel.andrade@adm.unicv.edu.cv
	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	angela.fernandes0204@gmail.com
Mozambique	Universidade Pedagógica	griup.ac.mz@gmail.com
	Universidade Rovuma	apereira@unirovuma.ac.mz agiramo@unirovuma.ac.mz
São Tomé and Príncipe	Universidade de São Tomé e Príncipe	costasacramentop@gmail.com raquel.moreno.psy@gmail.com

2. Eligibility Criteria

All participants with an academic or professional connection to the Polytechnic University of Cávado and Ave (IPCA) or any partner institution within this project are eligible for an Erasmus+ scholarship under the IWONDER framework.

General Criteria

- Sufficient linguistic proficiency for the mobility in the host countries to which they are applying;
- Possession of the required academic/professional qualifications for the fields of study/work;
- Ensure the fulfilment of specific and additional criteria applicable to the type of mobility applied for;
- Not having any other Scholarships to be realised under the IWONDER project;
- For special needs, an accompanying document must certify the current state of vulnerability, and the host institution must be informed of any required special logistics;
- Erasmus+ scholarships are designed to cover only supplementary expenses incurred during the stay abroad. Participants should not rely on them to cover essential living costs (i.e., the Scholarships may not cover all expenses during the mobility period)
- Host institutions may establish additional internal criteria. Applicants must pay close attention to any specific academic requirements outlined in the academic offering.

Student Mobility:

- Bachelor students must be enrolled in at least the second year of higher education to be eligible for mobility abroad.
- Master students must have successfully completed a bachelor's degree and be enrolled in a master's programme at their home institution at the time of application and the start of the mobility period.
- PhD students must have completed at least one year in their cycle of studies and have a defined research project.

The study period abroad must align with the learning and personal development needs related to the student's degree and be integrated into their study programme.

Erasmus+ allows students to study or undertake training abroad more than once as Erasmus+ students, provided the minimum duration for each activity is met and a total of 12 months per study cycle is not exceeded.

Staff Mobility:

Teaching and non-teaching staff must have a contractual link with IPCA or an IWONDER partner institution to apply for a scholarship.

There are two types of staff mobility:

- Teaching mobility: Allows teaching at a partner HEI abroad. Teaching mobility can occur in any common academic field, must last at least five (5) days, and include at least eight (8) teaching hours.
- Training mobility: Promotes the professional development of teaching and non-teaching staff through participation in training activities abroad (excluding conferences) and job shadowing/observation in a partner HEI.

3. Scholarships

Tipologia e número de bolsas disponíveis

Country	INCOMING Students	OUTGOING Students	INCOMING Staff	OUTGOING Staff
	(to IPCA)	(from IPCA)	(to IPCA)	(from IPCA)
Egypt	3 ^(a)	(c)	1	1
Jordan	3 ^(a)	(c)	3	2
Morocco	3 ^(a)	(c)	2	1
Tunisia	3 ^(a)	(c)	1	1
Bhutan	2 ^(b)	(c)	2	2
Cambodia	2 ^(b)	(c)	2	2
Nepal	2 ^(b)	(c)	2	2
Cape Verde	3 ^(a)	(c)	1	1
Mozambique	3 ^(a)	(c)	1	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	3 ^(a)	(c)	1	1
Total	24	0	16^(d)	14^(d)

(a) Four-month Scholarship

(b) Three-month Scholarship

(c) No funding available for this type of mobility

(d) Reserved mobility spots may be allocated strategically based on the internationalisation process of the involved institutions. If applicable, these spots will be removed from the partner institutions' selectable options in the online application form.

Financial Support

The IWONDER project provides the following financial support for selected participants:

- Subsistence allowance (amount varies by type, country, and direction of mobility);
- Travel expenses between the scholarship holder's home city and the host country (amount varies by destination);
- Health, accident, and travel insurance valid for the entire mobility period.

1) Subsistence allowance

Type of Mobility	Subsistence Grant
STUDENT Mobility (SMS)	Mobility periods: Up to 4 months From Partner Countries to IPCA: 850 EUR/month
STAFF Mobility (STA / STT)	Mobility periods: 5 days + 2 travel days From IPCA to Partner Countries: 850 EUR/day From Partner Countries to IPCA: 160 EUR/day

2) Travel

Country	Travel distance	Travel Allowance
Egypt	Between 3000 and 3999 km	530,00 €
Jordan	Between 4000 and 7999 km	820,00 €
Morocco	Between 500 and 1999 km	275,00 €
Tunisia	Between 500 and 1999 km	275,00 €
Bhutan	8000 km or above	1 500,00 €
Cambodia	8000 km or above	1 500,00 €
Nepal	8000 km or above	1 500,00 €
Cape Verde	Between 3000 and 3999 km	530,00 €
Mozambique	Between 4000 and 7999 km	820,00 €
São Tomé and Príncipe	Between 4000 and 7999 km	820,00 €

To verify the travel distance, consult the Erasmus+ Distance Calculator:: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_en

The financial support for the "distance band" represents the maximum amount allowed by the Erasmus+ programme, contributing to a round-trip journey between the home and host HEIs. If the allocated amount does not cover the desired trip's cost, participants must find alternative funding sources.

All selected participants are responsible for purchasing their travel tickets, according to the established mobility dates and the minimum stay period at the host HEI.

No For incoming students, the scholarship is paid in three instalments by cheque:

- **50%** upon arrival at IPCA and after signing the grant agreement.
- **30%** within 75 days of the mobility starting date.
- **20%** before the end of the mobility period.

For incoming teaching and non-teaching staff, the scholarship is fully paid full by bank cheque upon arrival and signing the contract.

For outgoing teaching and non-teaching staff, the total scholarship amount is transferred to their bank account before the mobility.

4. Mobility Applications under the IWONDER Project

Application preparation

During the application preparation phase, applicants must:

- Carefully read the application guide;
- Verify if they fulfil all the eligibility criteria;
- Ensure fluency in the language of the course or working language of the host HEI;

- Confirm they have the required academic/professional qualifications in the relevant fields of study/work;
- Gather all necessary information and documents for the application.
- Ensure the application proposal is objective, specific, and feasible, outlining the methodology, impact, benefits, and ability to achieve the proposed goals within the scholarship duration;
- Clearly articulate the motivation for the mobility in the application, highlighting expected benefits and outcomes.

Applicants must also:

- Be aware of the real costs of living in the partner institutions and assess them taking into account the monthly scholarship amount, in case of selection;
- Be prepared for need of adapting to different cultural realities and climatic conditions, in case of selection;
- Consider the need of financial resources to secure flight and accommodation bookings in advance to guarantee the best prices, as well as sustenance during the initial days after arrival, prior to receiving the mobility scholarship.

Application Process

Students and staff interested in mobility under IWONDER must submit their applications exclusively online within the established deadlines via the provided link in each call.

Application Documents

Applicants must include digital copies of the following documents in their online application:

Students

- Photo
- Passport (or another formal ID)
- Curriculum Vitae, , preferably in Europass format (<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>), a portfolio, or other documents specific to the field of study/internship;
- Language proficiency certificates (mandatory if required by the host HEI);
- Motivation letter (max. one page), explaining the reasons for applying, specific skills, academic interests, professional experience, commitment to return to the home country, and the benefits of the mobility grant for the Student and his context;
- Proof of enrolment at the home institution;
- Transcript of Records issued in English by the home university, detailing all courses completed and grades obtained. The document must be dated, signed, and stamped by the issuing institution or digitally certified. Otherwise, it will be deemed invalid and result in immediate disqualification;
- Study plan proposal;

- Letter of support from the home university. This document must be issued by a teacher or academic department of the applicant. It must be dated, signed, and stamped by the Home HEI, otherwise it will be invalid, and the application will be excluded (mandatory for all applicants);
- Other relevant document for the application.

For Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff

- Preliminary work plan proposal;
- Motivation letter (max. one page), explaining reasons for applying, specific skills, academic interests, professional experience and benefits of mobility for the applicant and his professional tasks;
- Authorisation to undertake mobility at the partner HEI from the applicant's supervisor (only for IPCA staff).
- Nomination from the partner university to undertake mobility at IPCA (only for partner HEI staff).

5. Application and Mobility Deadlines

Calls for applications are opened based on the availability of mobility grants and are disseminated internally at IPCA and partner HEIs in advance.

For students, semester mobility must occur between September 2024 and July 2026.

For teaching and non-teaching staff, mobilities can start anytime after January 2024, provided all necessary documents (work plan, visa, travel, insurance) are in place. All mobilities must be completed by December 2025.

Calls for applications are open to all the academic community at IPCA and at partner HEIs, taking into consideration the approved mobility flows and an common study fields. The calls are disseminated by e-mail.

6. Evaluation and Selection Process of applications

All applications must be submitted to IPCA following the defined procedures and deadlines of each call. Partner HEIs will validate and evaluate their respective applicants.

Applications positively assessed will then be reviewed by the receiving IPCA Schools/Institutes/Services for final decision. For IPCA, which only has funding for staff mobility in this project, applications will be evaluated by a three-member jury at IPCA responsible for the final selection of the applicants.

All outgoing applications from IPCA will be forwarded to the respective host HEIs for validation.

The qualitative evaluation of applications is based on specific criteria, including:

- Outstanding/excellent academic achievements in the relevant study/research area;
- Proposal in priority areas identified by IWONDER countries/partners;
- Applicant's academic potential;
- Individual, institutional, and regional impact of the proposed exchange;
- Level of language proficiency necessary for successful completion of the proposed Mobility;

- Motivation;
- Recommendations;
- Work/research experience and professional qualifications;
- Cross-cutting considerations (gender balance, equal opportunities, belonging to a vulnerable group).

These criteria ensure transparency and equal treatment in the selection process for all candidates.

7. Applicants with Fewer Opportunities

According to the Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023 (p. 466), " People with fewer opportunities means people who, for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, a migrant background, or for reasons such as disability and educational difficulties or for any other reasons, including those that can give rise to discrimination under article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental rights of the European Union, face obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the programme."

As a key priority of the Erasmus+ Programme, promoting inclusion, diversity, equity, and access is integral. Preference will be given to candidates with fewer opportunities if there is equivalent evaluation in the selection process.

As one of the priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme is to promote equal opportunities and access, inclusion, diversity and equity in all its actions, facilitating access for participants with fewer opportunities than their peers, preference will be given to applicants with fewer opportunities, whenever there is an equivalent assessment in the selection process.

The following types of obstacles will be considered under this project:

Disability: Covers physical, mental, intellectual or sensory disabilities which, in interaction with various barriers, may affect a person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Compulsory proof: presentation of a document, in English, proving the current state of physical/mental health. For example: a doctor's sworn statement; a recent medical examination; etc.

Health Issues: obstacles may be due to health problems, such as serious illnesses, chronic diseases or any other condition affecting physical or mental health that prevents participation in the programme. Compulsory proof: presentation of a document, in English, proving the current state of physical/mental health. For example: a doctor's sworn statement; a recent medical examination; etc.

Socio-Economic Obstacles: Economic disadvantages such as low living standards, low income, students who need to work to support themselves, reliance on social protection, precarious situations, poverty, etc. Compulsory proof: submission of a document, in English, proving the vulnerable socio-economic situation. This document must be dated, signed and stamped by the issuing organisation.

Geographic and Discrimination-Related Obstacles: living in remote or rural regions, small islands or peripheral/ultraperipheral regions, problematic urban areas, areas with fewer services (limited public transport, poor infrastructure) or less developed areas in third countries, etc. Situations of discrimination linked to gender, age, ethnicity, religion, beliefs, sexual orientation, disability or intersecting factors (a combination of two or more of these obstacles related to discrimination). Compulsory proof: submission of a document, in English, proving the situation of vulnerability. This document must be dated, signed and stamped by the issuing organisation.

Additional Financial Support (Top-ups): Participants in the above situations may receive additional funding, subject to presenting the required documentation.

8. Implementation of Mobility

Responsibilities of Sending and Receiving Institutions

Travel and Subsistence Scholarships: All selected participants are responsible for purchasing their own travel tickets and arranging accommodation, always complying with to the established mobility dates. For incoming participants, the scholarship (as per EU rates) is paid by cheque upon arrival. For outgoing participants, the scholarship is transferred to their bank accounts before mobility. A Mobility Agreement is signed between IPCA and the scholarship holder defining the conditions, benefits, and responsibilities, related to the implementation of the project, along with the payment schedule.

Visas: It is the responsibility of the scholarship holder to obtain a visa in their country of origin, whenever this is necessary for the mobility to take place. Each host HEI will issue the appropriate documents so that the selected students/teaching and non-teaching staff can apply for a visa, in accordance with national legislation.

Insurance: IPCA guarantees insurance for all students and teaching and non-teaching staff (including civil liability, accidents and serious illnesses, death and travel insurance, when relevant).

Recognition: In the case of student mobility, it is mandatory for all partner HEIs to consider the period of study abroad as an integral part of the study programme at the home HEI. The scholarship holder's home HEI must guarantee full academic recognition (including exams and other forms of assessment) of the study period carried out at the host HEI by signing the Learning Agreement, provided the student has passed it. Students must ensure that the study plan is discussed with the professor in charge prior to departure for the host HEI and that all the necessary documents for the validation (recognition) process are provided to the home HEI in good time.

The home and host HEIs must organise preparation sessions and integration activities for the scholarship holders, as well as support them in finding accommodation and guarantee access to all the services offered by the HEIs.

Responsibilities of Scholarship holders

The scholarship holders must reimburse the full/partial scholarship amount in cases of:

- Withdrawal from mobility;
- Non-compliance with the host HEI's internal regulations;
- Non-compliance with the sending HEI's internal regulations
- Failure to meet the requirements of their study/work programme;
- Failure to meet the minimum mobility period established by the programme.

Other Obligations:

- The scholarship holder cannot accept any other EU mobility grant during their scholarship period.
- Any changes to the study/research/work period must be communicated to both sending and receiving HEIs. A new Learning Agreement/Work Plan must be signed if necessary.
- At the end of the mobility, students will receive a Transcript of Records detailing achieved results. All students must obtain a positive mark in at least one subject/activity included in their study programme/internship;

- The scholarship holders must promptly communicate any difficulties during mobility (e.g., language barriers, integration issues, health insurance problems, accommodation difficulties) via email to both sending and receiving HEIs.
- Teaching and non-teaching staff must comply with the established programme, as well as the duration established for the mobility - 5 working days plus 2 travel days. Failure to fulfil these obligations may result in non-payment or return of the grant.

9. Information and Support

IWONDER Project Coordination Contacts:

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Polytechnic University of Cávado and Ave (IPCA)
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Vila Frescaínha S. Martinho
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Each partner institution has appointed a contact person responsible for supporting potential applicants from their institutions. Official contacts for each institution can be found in the “General Project Information > Partnership” section.